(b) to (d) There are no fixed norms that specifies the area required for the functioning of a CGHS dispensary. The rented building where the above dispensary is located is adequate for the functioning of the dispensary at present.

Chemists' Strike

3962. SHRI T.S. BAJWA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether chemist designated for supply of medicines to CGHS beneficiaries through various dispensaries have gone on strike quite often;

(b) the details in this regard for Delhi during the last three years indicating the extent and period of strike and reasons therefor in each case;

(c) whether Government are aware that such strikes hit hard the old infirm retired beneficiaries who have little money/energy to spare for buying medicines in cash and thereafter struggle for claiming reimbursement; and

(d) the remedial steps proposed to tackle this problem?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) to (d) Adequate quantity of medicines is available in CGHS dispensaries. However, any drug prescribed by the specialists and not available in dispensary is made available to the beneficiary from the Authorised local Chemist on the basis of individual prescription. In the case of CGHS dispensaries which do not have any authorised local chemist attached to them, the CGHS beneficiaries (including pensioner beneficiaries) are permitted to purchase the medicines from the open market for which reimbursement is made by the Government.

The reason for the strike cited by the authorized local chemists is late payment of their bills by the CGHS Directorate. Sometimes, due to paucity of funds near the end of the financial year, additional funds are sought for clearing their bills of the CGHS Authorised local chemists. In the recent strike, the authorised CGHS chemists had also raised the issue of introduction of Value Added Tax (VAT) by the Govt. of NCT of Delhi.

Adequate funds have been allocated for clearing the pending bills of the Authorised local Chemists of CGHS.

The details of strike by the Authorised local Chemists under CGHS Delhi during the last three years are as under:—

Sl. No.	Period
1.	21.01.2002 to 25.01.2002
2.	01.04.2002 to 12.04.2002
3.	01.11.2002 to 09.01.2003
4.	08.03.2004 to 05.04.2004
5.	26.08.2004 to 01.09.2004
6.	17.02.2005 to 28.02.2005
7.	27.03.2005 to 18.04.2005

Vigilance case against Director of National Institute of Homoeopathy, Kolkata

3963. SHRI MANOJ BHATTACHARYA: Will the MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether he is in receipt of any letter from any Member of Parliament regarding the need for instituting a vigilance case against the Director of National Institute of Homoeopathy, Kolkata;

(b) if so, the date on which the aforesaid letter was received;

(c) whether any action has been taken thereon;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor and by when action thereon is likely to be initiated?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) and (b) Three letters have been received from Members of Parliament forwarding allegation petitions against the Director, National Institute of Homoeopathy (NIH), Kolkata seeking vigilance inquiries on 21.7.2004, 31.8.2004 and 23.12.2004 respectively.

(c) to (e) The allegations seem to be manifestations of group rivalries as per the preliminary verifications and hence no substantive actions have been initiated.